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Dear Colleagues

KYAE is happy to announce we will sponsor six Education at Work Scholarships for adult education students, an expansion of our support for the Education Cabinet's annual scholarship program. We will award one \$1,000 scholarship per region, and I strongly encourage you to help your students apply. We really want to offer this opportunity to our best adult education students. You recently received information about the application process, which is repeated in the following article.

I also want to bring to your attention information we e-mailed late last month. KYAE has reallocated two positions, vacant through attrition, to create a new Curriculum and Instruction section. These positions will focus on the important areas of curriculum development, implementation of curriculum content standards, developmental education, assessments, learning disabilities and other related topics. The individuals hired for these positions will have a pivotal role in supporting teaching and learning efforts at the local level and raising student achievement. Job descriptions are available [online](#). I urge any interested adult educators to consider applying.

I'm pleased to report that adult education in Kentucky is continuing its national leadership as evidenced by two recent initiatives:

- On February 28, the [National Commission on Adult Literacy](#), funded by the Dollar General Corporation and led by Dr. Cheryl King, visited the Jefferson County Adult Education program as part of several commission field visits. Commission members heard from, among others, Julie Scoskie, Joyce Griffith and Trish Schneider, Jefferson County Adult Education; Tony Newberry, Jefferson Community and Technical College; and Michael Gritton, Kentuckiana Works. As the national spotlight illuminated the important accomplishments in Jefferson County, I was very proud to discuss Kentucky's adult education goals and the recently released report on developmental education. In addition, I am serving as one of several "resource" people to the commission's study. The Jefferson County visit's objective was to learn about how

collaboration and partnerships and innovative program design can help achieve education and economic development goals, and I'm sure the visiting commissioners were very impressed.

- In September 2006, the Commission on the Future of Higher Education presented its report, [A Test of Leadership: Charting the Future of Higher Education](#), to U.S. Department of Education Secretary Margaret Spellings. The report outlined a series of recommendations to improve access, affordability and accountability in American higher education. I have had the distinct honor of representing Kentucky in a workgroup, Serving Adults and Other Non-traditional Learners, to recommend implementation strategies to be discussed at a national summit on higher education in late March. I will have more to share with you following the summit.

I hope all of you are doing well and are as eagerly looking forward to spring as I am.

Sarah Hindman Hawker

Scholarship and financial aid resources

Education at Work Scholarships

Please encourage your students to apply for a \$1,000 Education at Work scholarship coordinated by the Education Cabinet. KYAE will award one scholarship per KYAE region, so students this year will compete only with those from their own region. Applications and guidelines are available [online](#). The application deadline is April 30, 2007.

Applicants must complete an application form, secure two letters of recommendation and write an essay as specified in the guidelines. Scholarship applications for KYAE students must be verified and signed by someone in the local adult education program. This is located under "program verification" on the application.

If you have further questions regarding the scholarship, please e-mail Wynnee Hecker in the Education Cabinet's Office of Communication at WynneeJ.Hecker@ky.gov or call at (502) 564-6606, ext. 128.

KHEAA resources

Kentucky students have three unique features at www.kheaa.com, the Web site of the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), to help them learn about and apply for student financial aid:

- Zip Access – Apply for the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship, KHEAA Teacher Scholarship and Early Childhood Development Scholarship and check federal student loan status.
- Zip Decision – Find out about pre-approval of student loans through KHEAA.
- Zip Answer – Answers questions about state and federal student aid.

Developmental education report

The Council on Postsecondary's Developmental Education Task Force approved a statewide plan designed to improve college readiness and success for Kentucky students. The report, [Securing Kentucky's Future: A Plan for Improving College Readiness and Success](#), outlines six core recommendations to reduce the number of underprepared students entering postsecondary education and to better support and retain students who enter underprepared. Sarah Hindman Hawker was a member of the task force.

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State Rep. Harry Moberly (r) signs the task force report, while state Sen. Jack Westwood (l) and Council President Tom Layzell (c) wait their turn.

The plan recognizes KYAE's important role in preparing adults for college and includes the adult education system in its recommendations regarding accountability, infrastructure funding and professional development. Dr. Hunter Boylan, director of the National Center for Developmental Education, said, "K-12, adult education, teacher training programs and postsecondary education all have important roles to play as part of a systematic response to the issue, and the report does a good job of identifying those roles."

More information will be forthcoming as KYAE implements pertinent task force recommendations.

Adult education promoted in Muhlenberg County

A new public awareness campaign in Muhlenberg County puts adult education front and center. "Believe in Education" promotes adult and postsecondary education through a [Web site](#), brochures, posters and billboards plus radio, cable TV and newspaper ads.

Cris Crowley, adult education program director for Muhlenberg and Hopkins Counties, said the intent is to create awareness of the benefits of education and provide a single point of contact for adult and postsecondary education opportunities.

"By using pictures and testimonials of Muhlenberg County citizens who have taken advantage of the available educational opportunities," she said, "we are encouraging others to do so as well."

The campaign is funded by the Muhlenberg County Fiscal County through coal severance funds.

Congratulations, Pulaski County students

Of the 167 Pulaski County students named to the fall 2006 Somerset Community College Dean's List, 30 were former Pulaski County Adult Education students. Congratulations to both the students and the Pulaski County staff for this important postsecondary education achievement!

Attorney general issues consumer alert

Attorney General Greg Stumbo's Office and the Council on Postsecondary Education-Kentucky Adult Education issued a consumer alert to students to beware of misleading GED information available on the Internet.

Read the full alert [online](#). Please share this information with your students. If you have not seen this information printed in your local newspaper, please feel free to share the alert with the news editor.

FAQs

KYAE recently received the following questions from providers. Please remember to read the Frequently Asked Questions available on the KYAE [Web site](#). Click on Educators and then

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Frequently Asked Questions. If you have issues you'd like to have considered for inclusion in the FAQs, e-mail Janet.Hoover@ky.gov.

Q: If we offer the OPT in Spanish or French, how can we get the essay scored?

A: It is the program's responsibility to score the OPT, including the essay whether in English, Spanish or French. One possibility is to have a Spanish/French teacher directly translate the essay, which the program would then score.

Q: How can a non-English speaking individual register for the GED using the GED Wizard?

A: A non-English speaking person should be assisted with GED Wizard in the same way that individual would be assisted with completing the paper copy of the KYAE-6.

Q: Should the student folder contain a copy of the student GED transcript?

A: No:

- For security reasons, programs should **not** keep a copy of the transcript in student folders. Students are provided an official transcript. Official transcripts, not copies, must be used for employment or postsecondary purposes. Additional official transcripts must be requested from KYAE.
- There is no NRS requirement to retain a copy of the transcript.
- An AERIN screen showing student scores and the ACE/GEDTS statement of passing scores is sufficient for audit purposes.
- PLEASE NOTE: Many student folders prior to 2003 may have official transcripts; however, programs should not provide these transcripts to students. Additional official transcripts must be requested from KYAE.

Please allow us to introduce...

"Please allow us to introduce..." is a monthly feature spotlighting KYAE staff members to help adult educators become more familiar with KYAE staff. This issue features D.J. Begley, Don Howerton and Benita Wilhoite.

D.J. Begley

An 11-year KYAE employee, D.J. Begley is the program support associate working with 33 Eastern Kentucky counties in Region 6. Many adult educators across the Commonwealth know D.J. from Plato training, which he has conducted statewide.

D.J. has a bachelor's degree in economics and accounting and a master's of business administration. He is a certified public accountant. Prior to joining KYAE, D.J. managed a construction and mining equipment store and was self-employed.

D.J. says his commitment to adult education stems from the fact that "in order for the children of my family and friends to have increased opportunity and quality of life in our own communities, we need to work to increase everyone's educational levels." D.J. and his wife, Corene, live in Hazard.

Fun fact: As a result of employment, leisure travel and military service, D.J. has visited all 50 states, Europe and Asia.

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Don Howerton

Don Howerton is the program support associate working with 24 Western Kentucky counties in Region 1. Prior to joining the KYAE staff 11 years ago, Don worked for Hopkins County Adult Education as an instructor in the learning center, local businesses and industry, the detention center and in the PACE program. Prior to his work in adult education, he was a middle school history teacher.

Don's educational background includes a master's degree and Rank 1 in education. He says his work in adult education is important because "adult education gives everyone a second opportunity for success."

Don lives in Hanson with his wife and two children, ages 5 and 7.

Fun fact: Don enjoys running, motorcycling and spending enormous amounts of time with his children.

Benita Wilhoite

Benita Wilhoite is the newest KYAE staff member – she started work in October 2006 as an executive secretary assisting staff in the program support, policy and planning and program analysis and research areas.

Prior to joining KYAE, Benita worked 14 years for the Kentucky School Boards Association. A 1979 GED graduate, Benita has continued her education through professional seminars and college classes. She says without the GED, she would not have been able to better herself professionally.

Benita was born, raised and continues to live in Frankfort. She is "owned by a 12-year-old dachshund named Dash."

Fun fact: She has been a professional dog groomer since 1986 and continues to groom dogs for family and friends.

New KYAE Profile

KYAE has updated its "Report Card" with a new look and name, plus lots more information about student achievement. The "KYAE Profile" provides detailed data about students in academic instruction, GED graduates and students transitioning to postsecondary education. Check out the KYAE Profile [online](#).

Valuable links

S.J. Brennan of Breathitt County Adult Education shared the following information – at Morehead State University, adult educators receive a 10 percent tuition discount on two courses each semester. More information is available [online](#).

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At www.GoHigherKY.org, students have access to approximately 500 video clips in the Career Center module for detailed information about particular careers. Go to the Career Center tab at the top and click on Careers by Clusters or Alphabetical List of Careers. Just added to www.GoHigherKY.org is a Resume Builder in the Career Center module.

The Alliance for Excellent Education has released a study showing that, in Kentucky, Class of 2006 dropouts could have earned an estimated \$4.5 billion in additional income over their lifetimes if they had stayed in high school. Read the report [online](#).

A new report provides a comprehensive look at federally supported adult education activities. The ETS Center for Global Assessment produced the report, "[Adult Education in America: A First Look at Results from the Adult Education Program and Learner Surveys](#)," in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education and the National Center for Education Statistics. The report presents data from the Adult Education Program Survey, which includes data from more than 6,000 adult learners at 1,200 adult-education programs nationwide.